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electronically. The best prior art of record fails to teach that customer specific information such as transaction risk is a factor in determining whether or not it is necessary to send an image of the check.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

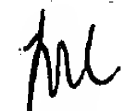
Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Lisa M. Caputo** whose telephone number is **(703) 308-8505**. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 8:30AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)308-7722, (703)308-7724, or (703)308-7382.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [**lisa.caputo@uspto.gov**].


All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



LMC

January 24, 2003



MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Amended) A method of electronic check conversion for use with an integrated point of sale payment terminal for processing multiple payment types including payment by check, the payment terminal being located at the point of sale during use to allow a store merchant to accept multiple payment types, the payment terminal including a compact housing having a base shaped to sit on a merchant counter and having a document slot for receiving a check, a processor disposed in the housing, a memory in communication with the processor, a magnetic ink character recognition device for reading a string of magnetic ink characters on the check and affixed to the housing at the document slot and in communication with the processor, and an imaging device for capturing an image of the check and affixed to the housing at the document slot and in communication with the processor, wherein the processor is programmed to process multiple payment types including processing a checking account transaction when the check is placed in the document slot, the method comprising:

capturing an image of the check at the payment terminal;

sending a check transaction to a host;

accessing a set of image rules at the host;

determining an image status of the transaction based on the set of image rules,

the image status being determined as required when dictated by estimated transaction risk; and

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immediately requesting the transferring of the image from the payment terminal to the host when the image status is required, otherwise, allowing the payment terminal to transfer the image to the host, if at all, when the payment terminal is idle.


MICHAEL G. LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

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